

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 28-61, which are hereby added, are pending in this application. Claims 28 and 45-61 are independent. Claims 1-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Previous claims 1-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,929,898 to Tanoi.

Previous claims 18 and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,929,898 to Tanoi.

Claims 1-27 are canceled herein, obviating the rejections.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,929,898 to Tanoi (hereinafter, merely "Tanoi") relates to a multi-point control unit for use in a multi-point videoconference system which has a plurality of videoconference terminals.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 28-61 are patentable over Tanoi.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 28 and 45-61 are patentable.

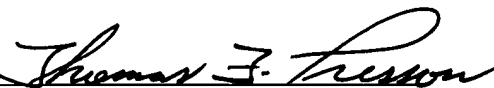
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any
overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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